Consumption of Refind Copper

1297. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consumption of refined copper in the country has been increasing steadily and refined copper is imported to meet the requirement;

(b) the production of refined copper by different units during 2004-05 and the quantity imported during the year; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production of refined copper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The consumption of refined copper in India has been increasing. However, as the production capacity has also increased substantially, India currently is a net exporter of refined copper.

(b) The production of refined primary copper by the three major producing companies in the year 2004-05 was 413543 tonnes. 31081 tonnes of refined copper have been imported during 2004-05.

(c) To increase production of copper, Government has opened up non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector for private investment, including foreign direct investment. Installed capacity of major private sector manufacturers has been enhanced substantially. Hindustan Copper Limited, a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines, is also taking steps for enhancing its mining capacity.

Labour issues in Mining

1298. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many labour related issues in mining sector and also in lad acquisition;

(b) is so, whether any action has been taken to solve those issues;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) The welfare of mine workers engaged in iron

ore, manganese ore, chrome are mines, limestone and dolomite mines and mica mines, are covered after under three welfare Fund Acts namely 1) Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour welfare Fund Act, 1976; 2) Limestone & Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act. 1972; and 3) Mica Mines labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946. Several schemes have been formulated under those funds to provide assistance in the sphere of health, education, housing etc.

Rule 72 and 73 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 empower State Government to determine the Compensation payable to the owner of surface rights for areas for which reconnaissance permit or prospecting license or mining lease are granted and for the damage, if any, done to the land by operation of such leases.

Need Based Distribution of Resources

1299. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any policy measures to ensure that the Iron resources of the country are available to the defferent States on need basis; and

(b) whether Government consider it against the constitutional framework if any State denies iron ore to another State?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) A high level committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Anwar-ul-Hoda, Member Planning Commission, to review the National Mineral Police, 1993, and recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the Sector. One of the Terms of Reference of the Committee is to examine the implications of the policy of mineral rich State to make value addition within the State a condition for grant of mineral concession and make appropriate recommendations in this regard.

Movement of minerals outside the State is not prohibited, However, as per section 11(3)(d) of the MMDR Act, State Government are entitled to take into consideration the investment which an applicant for mineral concession proposes to make in the mines and in the industry based on the minerals as one of the factors.